

## SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

In terms of overall catch reduction, three of the gears tested showed a significant difference when compared to the control. They were the Georgia TED, Florida Fish Excluder (bottom position) and the Parrish TED. The large opening in the Parrish TED appears responsible for the overall catch loss in this gear. Neither the Georgia TED nor the Florida Fish Excluder (bottom position) showed significant differences in shrimp weights when compared to the control net. The Florida Fish Excluder (bottom position) would be recommended over the Georgia TED due to its ease in installation and size.

The Scottish Separator Trawl had a significant loss of shrimp when compared to the control if only the bottom tailbag were used, as would occur in a commercial operation. The Scottish Separator Trawl may be better suited for use in the winter trawl fishery off North Carolina and the Mid-Atlantic States to separate flounder from midwater species as was evident in this study.

We recommend that further research be conducted in inshore waters with the Florida Fish Excluder, Georgia TED and other fish excluders or efficiency devices to find the optimum gear for the shrimp fleet in the Sound. We strongly recommend that until this research can be completed that shrimpers in the Sound use the Florida Fish Excluder.